

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A device for quick closing of an electric high-voltage circuit, said device comprising a main spark gap, provided with a first (2) and a second (3) main electrode, and a triggering device (10), said triggering device (10) comprising an auxiliary electrode gap (4) provided with a first (5) and a second (6) auxiliary electrode and being adapted, where necessary, to generate an arc (a) in the auxiliary spark gap (4) for igniting an arc (A) in the main spark gap (1), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

- each auxiliary electrode (5, 6) is provided with a guide rail (13, 14) designed such that the arc (a), via the guide rails (13, 14) and under the influence of the generated inherent magnetic field, moves into the main spark gap (1), said two guide rails (13, 14) each having a length that is larger than the width of the auxiliary spark gap (a),
- the auxiliary electrodes (5, 6) are adapted so as to be protected from the effect of plasma formed in the main spark gap (1), and
- a hermetic enclosure (21) encloses the main spark gap (1) and the auxiliary spark gap (4).

2. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide rails (13, 14) are substantially parallel and directed towards said first main electrode and have a length that is several times larger than the width of the auxiliary spark gap (4).

3. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~or 2, characterized~~

~~in that~~ the auxiliary electrodes ~~(5,6)~~ are protected from the effect of the plasma in the main spark gap ~~(1)~~ by being arranged in a protected position relative to the main spark gap ~~(1)~~.

4. (currently amended) A The device according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the auxiliary spark gap ~~(4)~~ is arranged adjacent to said second main electrode ~~(3)~~ and located some distance away from the main spark gap ~~(1)~~ as viewed in the direction of the main spark gap.

5. (currently amended) A The device according to ~~any of claims 1-4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a shielding device ~~(15)~~ is arranged between the guide rails ~~(13,14)~~ and the main spark gap ~~(1)~~.

6. (currently amended) A The device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the shielding device ~~(15)~~ is provided with an opening ~~(16)~~.

7. (currently amended) A The device according to ~~any of claims 1-6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the main spark gap ~~(1)~~ is designed for a movable arcing path via the inherent magnetic field.

8. (currently amended) A The device according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the each main electrode ~~(2,3)~~ is annular.

9. (currently amended) A The device according to ~~any of claims 1-8~~, ~~characterized in~~

that claim 1, wherein one of the guide rails (13, 14) of the triggering device is at the same potential as said second main electrode (3) of the main spark gap.

10. (currently amended) A The device according to ~~any of claims 1-9, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein it comprises a mechanical contact device (25) connected in parallel with the main spark gap (1).

11. (currently amended) A The device according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a hermetic enclosure (26) encloses the mechanical contact device (25).

12. (currently amended) A The device according to ~~any of claims 1-11, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein each enclosure (21, 26) encloses a gaseous medium under overpressure.

13. (currently amended) A The device according to ~~any of claims 1-10, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein an electric drive circuit (7) is adapted to generate the arc (a) in the auxiliary spark gap (4), in which drive circuit a primary coil (29) for operating the mechanical contact device (25) is connected in series.

14. (currently amended) A The device according to ~~any of claims 1-13, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein it is designed as a high-voltage protective device for an electric system and that the triggering device is adapted to be supplied with energy direct from the fault current of the line.

15. (currently amended) A The device according to ~~any of claims 1-13, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the triggering device is adapted to be supplied with energy from an energy magazine, which in turn is supplied with energy from the line during normal operation thereof.

16. (currently amended) A The device according to ~~any of claims 1-13, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the triggering device is adapted to be supplied with energy from a source of energy that is independent of the line.

17. (currently amended) A method for quickly closing an electric high-voltage circuit by generating an arc between a first and a second main electrode of a main spark gap with the aid of a triggering device, wherein, where necessary, an arc is generated between a first and a second auxiliary electrode in an auxiliary spark gap associated with the triggering device, whereby an arc in the main spark gap is ignited with the aid of the arc in the auxiliary spark gap, ~~characterized in that, wherein~~

- the arc in the auxiliary spark gap, via guide rails and under the influence of inherent magnetic fields, is brought to move into the main spark gap,
- the auxiliary electrodes are protected from the effect of plasma formed in the main spark gap, and that
- the main spark gap and the auxiliary spark gap are enclosed in a hermetic enclosure.

18. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the method is carried out while utilizing a device ~~according to any of claims 1-16~~ comprising a main spark gap, provided with a first and a second main electrode, and a triggering

device, said triggering device comprising an auxiliary electrode gap provided with a first and a second auxiliary electrode and being adapted, where necessary, to generate an arc in the auxiliary spark gap for igniting an arc in the main spark gap, wherein each auxiliary electrode is provided with a guide rail designed such that the arc, via the guide rails and under the influence of the generated inherent magnetic field, moves into the main spark gap, said two guide rails each having a length that is larger than the width of the auxiliary spark gap, the auxiliary electrodes are adapted so as to be protected from the effect of plasma formed in the main spark gap, and a hermetic enclosure encloses the main spark gap and the auxiliary spark gap.

19. (currently amended) Use of a device according to ~~claims 1-16~~ claim 1 for quickly closing an electric high-voltage circuit.

20. (currently amended) ~~Use~~ The use according to claim 19 as overvoltage protection device for a series capacitor.

21. (currently amended) An overvoltage protection device for a series capacitor, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the overvoltage protection device comprises a device according to ~~any of claims 1-16~~ claim 1.